



Eduardo Chicharro Y Agüera (1873-1949) - Diana The Female Dog / Cave Canem



2 700 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

- Oil on canvas. Signed and dated 1898. - 44 x 62 cm / 56 x 77.5 cm with original frame. - Eduardo Chicharro y Agüera, a titan of Spanish Symbolism and a pillar of the Academy, was a man whose technical mastery constantly contrasted with his overflowing, often extravagant imagination. While his contemporaries were content with the rigorous sobriety of Castilian portraiture, Chicharro delighted in the unconventional and the esoteric, often imbuing his canvases with a theatrical mystery. Discovering a pug named Diana, rendered with the same meticulous gravity as a Byzantine saint, is the quintessence of Chicharro's gesture: a playful subversion of "high art" that elevates a domestic companion to the status of a sacred icon. The use of a gilded Art Nouveau

Dealer

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mosaic--evoking the shimmering, ornamental depths of Klimt--serves as a luminous stage for his eccentricity, transforming a simple pet portrait into a sophisticated exercise in fin-de-siècle aesthetics. The inclusion of the Latin inscription "Cave Canem" (Beware the dog) adds a touch of intellectual wit, characteristic of Chicharro's fiery personality. By juxtaposing this stern, ancient warning with the delicate inscription "Diana" and the naturally harmless silhouette of a small pug, the artist creates a delightful paradox--a tender irony that speaks to a deep affection for his subject. This portrait is not simply a depiction of a dog, but proof that Chicharro considered the noble and the whimsical compatible. In Diana's gaze, framed by the rigid splendor of the mosaic, one perceives the hand of the master revealing the beauty of the unusual, demonstrating that for a mind as rich as Chicharro's, even the smallest creature could become the heroine of a magnificent and golden legend.